

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 19

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 2:6-7 – Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-13.

The message of the gospel is simple enough for an illiterate person to understand, believe, and be saved. But it is also so profound that even the most brilliant theologian cannot fathom its depths. There is a “wisdom of God” in the gospel that challenges the keenest of intellects and baffles the sharpest of minds. This “wisdom of God” is centered in Christ and His cross and includes all of God’s plans for the history of salvation from before the ages to the unending future of eternity. However, this wisdom is not a secret God has locked up to keep from us or a riddle that we are to puzzle over and solve for ourselves. Rather it is a gift from God granted to His church through His Spirit. We grow in this wisdom as we grow in our relationship with God, both of which are gifts from Him.

Questions:

What is wisdom?

How is the "wisdom of this age" different from the "wisdom of God?"

Why is the Spirit the One Who reveals the wisdom of God?

Bottom Line: Wisdom is a gift of God to His church through His Spirit.

SING

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?’ ‘Or who has given gifts to him that he might be repaid?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.” – Romans 11:33-36

This week’s faith family worship song is “To You Be the Glory” by Matt Maher and Kari Jobe. This song is based on Romans 11:33-36, where Paul writes to the church at Rome and expounds on the knowledge and wisdom of God. At this point, Paul can’t help but burst into praise as he writes about God’s great plan in the history of salvation in the previous chapters. God’s ways are far beyond our understanding, and He is the one who deserves all the glory. As you continue in worship, sing this song together.

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin grab a flashlight. Then read 1 Corinthians 2:6-7 with your preschooler.
- Explain to your preschooler that this passage from God’s Word is about the wisdom of God. Wisdom is a big word. It means to be able to know what is true, what is right, paired with judgment on how to act. Many people have wisdom and are considered to be wise people. But God is wiser than anyone!
- Ask them if they can think of someone they know who is wise and helps them learn how to do something. (Example: Teacher, Baseball Coach, Dance Instructor, Bible Study Leader, etc...) Say, “ Your baseball coach is wise and he helps you learn all about baseball, but his leadership will only last for a while. You could have a different coach next year. Do you know whose leadership and wisdom lasts forever? God’s wisdom! It is eternal and that means it lasts forever.”

- Take the flashlight out and explain to your preschooler that you are going to turn out the lights. Next, turn on the flashlight and tell them that this flashlight helps you find your way in the dark. If you turn off this flashlight, you won't be able to find my way around in the dark, will you? No, you need this flashlight to know where to go. Turn on the lights. Explain that God's wisdom is a lot like this flashlight. We need God to know what to do. We need His wisdom.
- God had a plan for us and it was a good and perfect plan. God knew that we would sin and make bad choices, so He made a way for us to be with Him forever. It was the cross. In God's perfect wisdom, He sent Jesus from heaven to earth to live as man just like you and me. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and bad choices so that we could be forgiven of our sins. When we trust in Jesus and all His wisdom, are truly sorry for and turn away from our sins, and follow Him, then, we can be with Him forever in heaven.
- God is wise and He is the light that guides us. When we follow Him, He will guide us in everything that we do. We can ask God for wisdom when we play, make choices, read the bible and pray.
- Let's pray and ask God to be the light that guides us with His perfect, good wisdom.

Children

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-13. Stop and clarify any verses along the way as needed.
- What is wisdom? How is wisdom different from just being smart? How is the world's wisdom different than God's wisdom?
- Ask your child to brainstorm ways we can grow in God's wisdom. Some examples:
 - Trust Jesus as our Savior and honor God.
 - Read His Word because the Bible teaches us how to find wisdom.
 - Make right choices.
 - Stay away from wrong choices (sin).
 - If we do sin, ask for forgiveness and learn from our mistakes.
- Go back and re-read 1 Corinthians 2:7. Explain how God's wisdom is hidden from people who don't have His spirit, who haven't yet turned from their sin and trusted Jesus. But God does not plan for His wisdom to stay hidden. Once you trust Jesus, God gives you His spirit to help you understand His wisdom. But we need to read His Word to help us grow in wisdom.
- To emphasize the importance of God's Word for growing in wisdom and how God's wisdom is a treasure, go on a Treasure Hunt for wisdom. Hide scripture verses around the room that deal with wisdom. (Write the references on an index card and then have your child look up the verses in their Bible to give them experience with looking up verses in God's Word). Some possible verses:
 - Proverbs 2:6; Psalm 51:6, Psalm 111:10; Luke 2:52; 1 Corinthians 3:18-19; James 1:5;
- For additional learning fun, help your child create a Treasure Chest for Bible verses. Find a shoebox or tissue box to decorate any way they want, using whatever you have available. Inside, they can place the Bible verses that they found in the Treasure Hunt. Encourage the children to find one Bible verse a day to think about and place in their Treasure Chest.
- Pray and thank God for giving wisdom to those who follow Christ. Ask God to help you grow in His wisdom, and not trust in the wisdom of this world.

Students

- What are some examples of the "wisdom of this age" that you see in culture?
 - (Ex. 'You've got to be the best,' 'Do whatever feels good,' 'The most important thing is to take care of yourself')
- How does God's wisdom contradict this "wisdom?"
 - (Ex. Christ tell Christians that those who wish to be first must become last.)
- How do people (Christians and non-Christians) react when they are confronted with God's wisdom?
- How do you react when you face a decision of whether to follow the wisdom of the world or the wisdom of God?
 - Can you think of an instance where you chose to follow the wisdom of the world? To follow God's wisdom?
- The only reason Christians are able to choose to follow God's wisdom is because God has put His Spirit inside of them so that they can understand His truths and act on them.
 - How can you better stay in tune with the Spirit teaching and guiding in God's wisdom?
 - (Ex. prayer, Scripture, Christian accountability)
- What are ways you can shield yourself from the influences of the wisdom of this world?
 - (Ex. not watching/reading/listening to negative entertainment)
- How can you share God's wisdom in your friend group, school, extracurricular activities, and community?
 - Why is sharing God's wisdom difficult?
- How can you rely on the Spirit to help you to share this wisdom?